

conditions and who has undergone varied experiences, therapeutic as well as medical, this edition represents experience and erudition. In particular this volume has much of the hereditary character of the earlier editions, and in places we find the author relying upon himself to a greater degree and ignoring the classical treatment of various symptoms and diseases. To the alert practitioner the personality of this part of the book appeals strongly, although its author be at the antipodes. If the general trend is optimistic it is because the physician should carry cheer to the patient and not the despair of the dead-house. Yet it is safely optimistic, not relying upon conclusions based on scanty data. For the author's success in intelligently, conscientiously, and acceptably presenting his subject, or rather group of subjects, the demand for large editions so frequently shown is proof; and to the testimony to the author's learning and labors, we here, as we have in other places, desire to add our own.

R. W. W.

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THE DISEASES OF INFANCY AND CHILDHOOD. Designed for the Use of Students and Practitioners of Medicine. By HENRY KOPLIK, M.D., Attending Physician to the Mount Sinai Hospital; ex-President of the American Pediatric Society, etc. Illustrated with 169 engravings and 30 plates in color and monochrome. New York and Philadelphia: Lea Brothers & Co., 1902.

In the space of 650 pages Dr. Koplik has succeeded in making a very satisfactory presentation of pediatric knowledge of the present day, and as far as we can observe, after a careful examination of his work, has omitted nothing of importance that properly belongs within the scope of his subject. From the moderate size of the volume it is evident that a special effort has been made to avoid discursiveness and unnecessary verbiage. The style is incisive, the sentences short and direct—a characteristic which is noticeable throughout the volume, but most markedly so in the earlier pages, in which at times this effort at brevity is rather too apparent. On cursory examination the first thought that strikes the reviewer is the admirable discretion exercised in the choice and presentation of illustrations. In this era of the handy camera there is always a great temptation to make a picture-book of a purely medical work, more often, perhaps, at the solicitation of the publishers than in accordance with the better judgment of the author. Dr. Koplik's illustrations, however, are always well-chosen and illuminating, especially the plates reproduced from the pen-and-ink and wash drawings of Dupuy. As a rule, these are much better illustrations of morbid conditions than the usual half-tones from direct photographs, which often fail to emphasize sufficiently the salient features of disease.

The usual classical arrangement of the subject-matter is followed out, though special commendation may be given to the introductory sections which open the various chapters. These deal with general symptomatology and special methods of examination. Thus, the chapter on nervous diseases begins with a consideration of the normal cerebro-spinal fluid and the changes to be expected in various morbid conditions of

the cerebro-spinal system. This is followed by a concise description of the operation of lumbar puncture and the indications for its employment.

The consideration of methods of infant feeding is somewhat disappointing. Dr. Koplik does not believe in formulæ for milk modification, with which, he admits, he has not had an extensive experience, but he speaks vaguely of calculating the proportions required in an "easily remembered method of home modification" in these words: "The other method of which I have made use requires cream containing 16 per cent. of fat. With ordinary milk and a 6 per cent. solution of sugar of milk, assuming the composition of cow's milk as above [proteids, 3.5 per cent.; fats, 3.6 to 4 per cent.; and sugar, 4 per cent.], we first calculate the proteid composition of the mixture, diluting with the 6 per cent. sugar of milk solution. This gives us, if we dilute the milk, a mixture having the absolute proteids and a certain percentage of fat and sugar. The sugar is ignored. We then add to this the requisite amount of the 16 per cent. cream to bring the fats up to the required strength, allowing for the fat already in the dilution. This is simply a matter of calculation, and can be worked out by anyone if the required materials are at hand." To the inquiring student who wishes to know how Dr. Koplik does this, the description of his method just quoted will prove an interesting *lucus a non lucendo*.

Aside from this criticism, which is so obviously invited, little but praise can be given to the general presentation of the subject-matter. Dr. Koplik writes with conviction and with an authoritative grasp of his subject, while a judicious conservatism characterizes his diagnostic and therapeutic methods. The bacteriology is full and up to the hour, being especially well treated in the consideration of the pulmonary and cerebro-spinal infections. For a general text-book, the chapter on diseases of the heart and pericardium is one of the most satisfactory presentations of the subject we are familiar with.

For a first edition very few typographical errors are to be found. One very curious one is the repeated mis-spelling of the name of Dr. Maynard Ladd, of Boston, as Ladd. The type is large, and the book is beautifully printed on heavily calendered paper—a fine specimen of modern book-making. An index of authors precedes the general index, which is quite full and satisfactory, and at the end of each chapter is given a list of the leading authorities quoted, with the references. The book is a distinctly valuable addition to our list of pediatric text-books.

T. S. W.

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BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY METHODS. By P. H. MELL, Ph.D. New York: The MacMillan Company, 1902.

THE author states in his introduction that it has been his endeavor to begin at the beginning and to treat his subject in a scientific, accurate manner, yet at the same time as clearly and as simply as possible, and we think he has thoroughly fulfilled his purpose.

The book forms a very complete exposition of the most advanced methods used in laboratory work, and will be found of value not only as a text-book by teachers of the subject, but by the large class of students who are self-taught or desire a laboratory companion as a guide to the most recent methods of work.

J. H. G.